

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NIKOLA TESLA COMMEMORATION: EXCHANGE OF
PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

1. AT THE TESLA STATUE DEDICATION JULY 23 AT NIAGARA
FALLS DR. IVO MARGAN, HEAD OF THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION,
READ A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TITO. FRANK ZARB IN HIS
SPEECH ACCEPTING THE STATUE READ A SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT FORD. THE TEXTS FOLLOW:

2. PRESIDENT TITO'S MESSAGE:

--- ON THE OCCASION OF THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH
OF NIKOLA TESLA, WHICH SYMBOLICALLY COINCIDES WITH THE
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
I WISH TO CONVEY MY MOST CORDIAL GREETING TO THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE, TO PRESIDENT FORD AND, PARTICULARLY, TO ALL U.S.
CITIZENS OF YUGOSLAV DESCENT WHO HAVE FOUND THEIR NEW
HOMELAND THERE.

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--- THE THOUGHT AND THE WORK OF NIKOLA TESLA HAVE BEEN BUILT INTO THE GROUNDWORKS OF CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION AND HUMAN PROGRESS AND ARE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE FOR ALL MANKIND. HIS WORK STANDS ALSO AS A SYMBOL OF THE

CONTRIBUTION BY NUMEROUS MEN AND WOMEN OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN TO THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE, EQUALITY AND PROGRESS, ON WHICH THE CREATION OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN BASED, AND WHO HAVE BEEN BUILDING AT THE SAME TIME SOLID BRIDGES OF CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES.

--- WE, FOR OUR PART, WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE UNDERSTANDING AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE UNITED STATES. IN THIS REGARD, I HIGHLY VALUE MY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN HELSINKI AND BEOGRAD, WHICH HAVE REMAINED IN MY PLEASANT MEMORY.

--- I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CELEBRATIONS OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF NIKOLA TESLA WILL GIVE AN IMPETUS TO THE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE, SECURITY AND PROGRESS IN THE WORLD.

3. PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE:

I SEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL THOSE WHO ATTEND THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF THE NIKOLA TESLA STATUE.

THIS SPLENDID BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE YUGOSLAV PEOPLE IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO A MAN OF ADMIRABLE TECHNICAL SKILL AND SOCIAL VISION. HIS CONTRIBUTION TO MODERN COMMUNICATIONS PROUDLY REPRESENTS THE SPIRIT OF HARD WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THE WIDER CONTRIBUTION TO THIS COUNTRY BY CITIZENS OF YUGOSLAV DESCENT.

AS A NATION OF MANY NATIONS, WE ARE ESPECIALLY MINDFUL DURING OUR TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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UNIQUE TIES TO OTHER LANDS. IT IS MOST APPROPRIATE THAT THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA HAVE CHOSEN TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR BICENTENNIAL BY HONORING A YUGOSLAV- ERICAN WHOSE DISCOVERIES IN THE COMMUNICATIONS FIELD DID SO MUCH TO ADVANCE THE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION WE ENJOY TODAY WITH OUR ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS.

NIKOLA TESLA DID NOT LIVE TO SEE THE VAST COMMUNICATIONS

NETWORK WHICH UNITES THE MODERN WORLD, BUT ITS FOUNDATIONS
REST GREATLY ON HIS DISCOVERIES. ON THIS OCCASION I
WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN IN HONORING THIS

DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN INVENTOR WHOSE CELEBRATED ACHIEVE-
MENTS ARE SUCH AN ENDURING CREDIT TO HIS NATIVE YUGOSLAVIA.
GERALD R. FORD KISSINGER

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